

EPA REGION III

Office of Public Affairs

Early Bird Headlines

Monday, March 16, 2009

***** Morning Hot List *****

Obama expected to kill key Bush EPA program

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER WASHINGTON - The Obama administration intends to close an EPA program heavily promoted by the Bush administration that rewards voluntary pollution controls by hundreds of corporations with reduced environmental inspections and less stringent regulation, according to EPA sources and internal e-mails. EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson is expected to sign, as early as this week, a memo terminating the Performance Track program, senior EPA officials said yesterday. Performance Track offers regulatory perks to corporations that pledge to save energy and reduce pollution. Entry into Performance Track, EPA's premier voluntary "green club," is supposed to be reserved for companies with sterling environmental records, but has been denounced by environmentalists as a public-relations charade. EPA's decision comes three months after an Inquirer investigation found that Performance Track lauded companies with suspect environmental records, spent millions on recruiting and publicity, and failed to confirm members' environmental pledges independently. The program became so desperate for new members, The Inquirer found, that it turned to gift shops and post offices to pad its numbers. A senior EPA official said in an interview yesterday that The Inquirer's findings had played a role in Jackson's decision.

Plant's bid to dump smokestack pollutants into Mon is under fire

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE Allegheny Energy is cleaning up smokestack emissions from its Hatfield's Ferry coal-fired power plant in Greene County but wants to dump some of the toxic pollutants it takes out of the air into the drinking water source for more than 90,000 people in southwestern Pennsylvania. If the utility is permitted to dispose of pollutants in the Monongahela River, it could set a precedent that would let dozens of other old, dirty power plants in the Northeast dump coal combustion wastes collected by new, state and federally mandated air pollution control equipment into rivers and streams, said Abigail Dillen, an attorney with Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law firm. "Allegheny Energy is finally installing scrubbers, but that creates a whole new wastewater stream. The controls are taking pollution from the air and putting it into rivers," said Ms. Dillen, who today will file a motion to intervene in Allegheny Energy's appeal of its state-issued water discharge permit.

Permit requirements to limit pollution stricter than Md. regulations

BALTIMORE SUN (Sunday) Permit requirements to limit pollution stricter than Md. regulations The

Environmental Protection Agency has told Maryland's poultry farmers it intends to enforce for the first time federal pollution rules governing chicken manure - a crackdown that has surprised and angered growers while pleasing environmentalists who've long complained about agricultural runoff fouling Chesapeake Bay. At meetings recently on the Eastern Shore, EPA officials told several hundred farmers that they must get federal pollution-discharge permits if any manure from their flocks is washing off their land into drainage ditches and streams. More than half of the state's 800 poultry farmers have filed notices to get the permits, state officials say. The federal permits are tougher in key respects than what Maryland has so far been unable to establish for its poultry farmers. State regulations and permit requirements developed last year to cover about 200 of the largest chicken farms are on hold because of appeals filed both by environmentalists and farmers.

EPA official might have conflict over C8

CHARLESTON-GAZETTE CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- When President Obama named Lisa Jackson to be his Environmental Protection Agency administrator, advocates for tougher regulation of the toxic chemical C8 were optimistic. Read more in the Sustained Outrage blog. As New Jersey's top environmental regulator, Jackson had set the toughest C8 guideline in the country - a drinking water standard of 0.04 parts per billion of C8, also known as PFOA. Now those advocates are worried. Last month, Jackson named lawyer Robert M. Sussman to be her "senior policy counsel," to advise her on energy and environmental issues across EPA's broad regulatory authority. For several years, Sussman represented 3M Corp., helping the agency deal with EPA efforts to understand - and perhaps regulate - what C8 and similar chemicals are doing to public health and the environment. Sussman worked for EPA during the Clinton administration and later became a partner in the Washington office of the Los Angeles law firm, Latham & Watkins. After retiring from the law firm, Sussman became a fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank run by John Podesta, a former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton.

PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

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Editorial/Op-Ed: A move toward bias-free science

The 15,000 scientists and engineers who protested the manipulation, suppression, and distortion of research during the Bush administration no doubt welcomed President Obama's pledge last week to restore scientific integrity to the White House. Lifting the ban on research on embryonic stem cells Monday, Obama promised to let "scientists like those here today do their jobs, free from manipulation or coercion" and to listen "to what they tell us, even when it's inconvenient, especially when it's inconvenient." He assigned his advisers to develop integrity safeguards within 120 days. With earnest words and the stroke of a pen, it was goodbye to George W. Bush's "sound science," and welcome to Obama's "soundest science." If only it were that simple.

PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS

Letters: Get planting, Philadelphia! PHILADELPHIA has proclaimed that it's going to be the "greenest" city in the country. But did anyone check out how we actually stack up against other cities in terms of tree cover? Here are the best figures we could find via an Internet search and e-mails: Pittsburgh, 35 percent ... Baltimore, 20... Philadelphia, 15 ...Like many cities, Philadelphia has suffered massive tree loss. Let's face it, we can't survive without the many economic, social, health and environmental benefits that trees provide. At a 15 percent tree canopy, Philly is in the bottom third of these cities, far below the recommended 40 percent canopy.

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

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If the utility is permitted to dispose of pollutants in the Monongahela River, it could set a precedent that would let dozens of other old, dirty power plants in the Northeast dump coal combustion wastes collected by new, state and federally mandated air pollution control equipment into rivers and streams, said Abigail Dillen, an attorney with Earthjustice, a nonprofit environmental law firm. "Allegheny Energy is finally installing scrubbers, but that creates a whole new wastewater stream. The controls are taking pollution from the air and putting it into rivers," said Ms. Dillen, who today will file a motion to intervene in Allegheny Energy's appeal of its state-issued water discharge permit.

Editorial: Murky water: The city authority's financial deal deserves scrutinyIt's easy -- and tempting -- for people to dismiss complicated financial deals that are hard to understand. But when public dollars are at stake and the operation of a city water and sewer system hangs in the balance, that's when more, not less, of a contract's inner workings should be brought to light. Councilman Patrick Dowd and Controller Michael Lamb make a good case that there is too little known about the \$414 million debt package entered into last June by the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. Designed to refinance old debt and bring the agency \$98 million for system improvements without a water rate increase, the arrangement uses a tool called a swap in which the involved parties sell bonds to each other weekly at rates driven in part by averages of other swap deals. This deal also has \$18.5 million in no-bid insurance premiums, consulting fees and payments to terminate 1-year-old contracts.

Drilling stalled in Allegheny National Forest (Today)CLARION -- The U.S. Forest Service hasn't OK'd any new gas or oil wells in the Allegheny National Forest for almost two months, delaying oil and gas development and causing at least one company to consider drilling without federal approval. Leanne Martin, Allegheny National Forest supervisor, said no "notices to proceed" have been issued for new wells since Jan. 16, when the Forest Service's regional office in Milwaukee took over the local well review process. "Milwaukee hasn't gotten back to us on any reviews it's doing," she said, at the last of three public meetings last week. "And we have not been told when that will end."

Burning the forest to save the trees (Yesterday) One unique Central Pennsylvania ecosystem is considered so vital, the state plans to burn it down. Last week, the Pennsylvania Game Commission released plans for a controlled burn of a section of the Scotia Barrens on State Game Land 176 in Patton Township, Centre County. The planned burn-off of 95 acres, scheduled to occur on a single day sometime between April 6 and May 8, is intended to improve habitat conditions within the forest and reduce the possibility of an uncontrolled wildfire impacting the surrounding communities.

Rivers of money? There's not enough to fix all locks and dams (03/14/2009)

Pittsburgh owes its existence to the presence of its three rivers, and two-and-a-half centuries after its founding the rivers are still vital to the region's prosperity. To that end, there was good news this week for the nation's second-largest inland port. The Army Corps of Engineers has secured a lion's share of federal funding for local projects under the \$410 billion spending bill just passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama. Of the federal funds slated for the nine-county region, the corps will receive approximately \$95 million for locks and dams (\$53 million for maintenance and operations and \$42 million for construction) for fiscal year 2009.

WILKES-BARRE TIMES-LEADER

Engineers promoting going green NEPA Green Exchange advocates using environmentally friendly materials to help save money. With environmental action on the rise in both political and economic circles, a self-styled "green team" of local architects and engineers is betting that if homeowners, industry professionals and job seekers plan now, they'll all be able to benefit when the economic recession breaks. "We decided what we need to do is put out before the public and other professionals what the green economy amounts to and how people can take personal action in saving money and saving the environment by using green materials and energy sources in their homes and buildings," said Norm Johnstone, a retired engineer and the current president of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers' Luzerne County Chapter.

Consequences of gas drilling still unknown Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. caused natural gas to infiltrate into at least nine homes in Susquehanna County, according a letter of violation from the state Department of Environmental Protection, but it remains unclear whether Cabot knowingly violated any regulations. "The more important part of the investigation is still ahead of us," DEP spokesman Mark Carmon said. "We know where it came from. The two more important things are how did it get there ... and more importantly, how do we get it out of the wells." The company, however, is not confident in DEP's findings, according to spokesman Ken Komoroski, believing the letter is "unnecessary" and claims as fact conclusions that haven't been proven.

HARRISBURG PATRIOT-NEWS

Farm odors: now under state management

You know it's nearly spring when the neighborhood starts to stink. At least it's that easy for folks living in central Pennsylvania where farmers spread manure on their fields in anticipation of a new planting season. A drive through the countryside in late March promises a permeating mix of fresh and funky smells for the uninitiated. Many of us have either grown up with it or grown used to it and consider farm odors part of the bargain in living here. But there are residents who live near farms so big they're considered factories where the plumes of stench can be unbearable.

Rural area faces development boom

Residents of rural Londonderry Twp. are already looking at a proposed 966-home development. Now an even larger one is waiting in the wings.

A developer is working on plans to build up to 2,000 homes, including a retirement community, on the Lytle farm property that straddles Route 230 along Swatara Creek.

Bald eagle population soars

Sandra Dzielak's Psychology 101 assignment for 20 minutes of solitary reflection suddenly crashed to an end in the raucous caterwauling of a mob of crows. Any remaining shreds of the Messiah College freshman's quiet contemplation evaporated as the object of the crows' excitement settled onto the branch of a sycamore on the opposite bank of Yellow Breeches Creek. "This huge bald eagle came flying in," said Dzielak, of Linglestown. "I was completely amazed, flabbergasted."

SCRANTON TIMES

State grant will help Lackawanna River Sewer Basin Authority go green
THROOP — Lackawanna River Sewer Basin Authority is making an effort to "go green" with money from a new state grant. LRBSA received \$397,961 from the state Department of Environmental Protection for two microturbines to generate electricity using waste gas. With decreased reliance on electricity, LRBSA will produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions, said facilities manager Michael Matechak. When waste solids are removed from water, they are put in a treatment tank and broken down by bacteria. At that point, gas is generated that the microturbines will use for energy.

Landfill shortfall impact felt in Throop
THROOP — Decreasing revenue from Keystone Sanitary Landfill means fewer projects for the borough, officials said. The borough gets the biggest chunk of its revenue from the landfill, but the revenue has been slowly declining over the past two years. Projected revenue from the landfill was down by more than \$300,000 in 2008 and about \$200,000 in 2007. Bigger projects will have to wait, Council Vice President James Barnick said, as will repairs on infrastructure previously made possible by landfill money. "We're going to have to hold back on projects. Things are tight for everybody," Mr. Barnick said. "Less people buying things means less garbage is going into the landfill."

Inventor offers idea on acid mine drainage

OLD FORGE — A local inventor is seeking permission to use borough-owned land off Union Street for a demonstration of the technology he plans to use to treat acid mine drainage in the Lackawanna River, downstream from the Old Forge borehole. Chris Gillis, president of Eco-Tech Environmental Technologies in Shavertown, was recently awarded a \$792,000 grant from Luzerne County's share of the state gaming tax to build a prototype treatment center for the demonstration project and acquire land around the bore-hole's outfall.

Landfill intake declines as consumers reuse

WASHINGTON — Along with the stock market and the foreclosure rate, a less-heralded barometer has signaled the arrival of hard times: the landfill. In an extravagantly wasteful society that typically puts 254 million tons of unwanted stuff at the curb to be thrown away each year, landfill managers say they knew something was amiss in the economy when they saw trash levels start steadily dropping last year. Now, some are reporting declines as sharp as 30 percent.

CENTRE DAILY TIMES

Editorial: A right to clean water When out-of-state energy companies complain about the "bureaucratic B.S." preventing them from unfettered access to natural gas trapped in rock a mile beneath us and the riches it promises, think of the river. Coal mining — and the poisons produced in the process — almost killed the Susquehanna and its tributaries, along with their once-flourishing aquatic life. Acid drainage and other toxic runoff was considered merely a "trifling inconvenience" by a legal system that was clearly influenced more by money streaming from coal barons than the life-sustaining water flowing through Penns Woods down to the Chesapeake Bay. A more enlightened court, nine decades later — and almost too late — declared that "the people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of the natural scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment." As last week's two-day package of stories reported, a number of efforts are under way to secure those rights. Among them are PA

Cleanways, the West Branch Susquehanna Rescue and, locally, ClearWater Conservancy. But the already difficult job will become even more daunting when the rock fracturing, by which gas is extracted from the Marcellus Shale, begins in earnest in central and northeastern Pennsylvania.

WASHINGTON OBSERVER-REPORTER

Breathing easier at Hatfield's Ferry

Allegheny Energy Inc.'s Hatfield's Ferry Power Station has been an easy target for regulatory agencies and environmental activist groups, which have singled out the plant in Monongahela Township for years as a major source of pollution in Greene County. And frankly, the power station, for the most part, deserved the criticism. Three years ago, however, Allegheny Energy launched a \$650 million project to install scrubbers at the power station, a project intended to substantially improve the emission controls at that facility.

WASHINGTON D.C.

WASHINGTON POST

Review Finds Modest Risk From Children's Toiletries Extensive studies of two toxic chemicals found in children's bath and personal care products suggest that if they pose a health hazard, it is likely to be extremely small and probably incalculable, a review of scientific research shows. **The two chemical compounds -- 1,4-dioxane and formaldehyde -- were found in trace quantities in children's shampoos, bath gels, lotions and wipes in a study conducted by the consumer group Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.**

Capture Rain Runoff to Water Plants NEWPORT NEWS, Va. -- The next time there's a rainstorm, stand outside and look at how much water falls from the roof of your house. It's buckets and buckets -- water you can put to good use if you have rain barrels catching all those drops. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation estimates that during an average rainstorm, which is an inch in 24 hours, more than 700 gallons of water run off the roof of a typical home. That's enough water to take 17 baths or 58 showers, or water who knows how many plants.

Capturing Nature's Power: Swan Point Couple Install Area's First Residential Wind Mill Swan Point Couple Install Area's First Residential Windmill As his 33-foot windmill slowly rose into place, Ken Robinson watched wide-

eyed and breathed a sigh of relief. "It was a bureaucratic nightmare, and there were times of doubt, but now it's real," Robinson said Wednesday, as the windmill gained momentum in the mild afternoon breeze.

Smithsonian and 27-Year Employee in Battle Over Asbestos: Staffer Has Disease; Museum Defends Safety A year ago, the National Air and Space Museum gathered a group of workers for a safety briefing on "asbestos awareness." Nearly 45 minutes into the session, the museum's safety coordinator said something that Richard Pullman thought at first he'd misheard: There was asbestos in the museum walls.

Champion of Environmental Stewardship

Jack Lorenz, who became a nationally prominent advocate for nature preservation during 18 years as executive director of the Izaak Walton League, and who developed a code of ethics governing outdoor activities, died of a stroke March 2 at Scripps Mercy Hospital in San Diego, where he was visiting. He was 69 and lived in Woodstock, Va.

Column: On Warming, a Cold Splash From Across the Pond

One of the foremost proponents of the view that global climate change is a myth, the Right Honorable *Christopher Walter Monckton*, Third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, was in town last week warning a House Ways and Means subcommittee that adopting a cap-and-trade system or another such tax plan to reduce pollution is unnecessary and would pretty much destroy the country.

A Trashed Economy Foretold: Intake at Landfills Has Been Falling

Intake at Landfills Has Been Falling Along with the stock market and the foreclosure rate, a less-heralded barometer has signaled the arrival of hard times: the landfill. In an extravagantly wasteful society that typically puts 254 million tons of unwanted stuff at the curb to be thrown away each year, landfill managers say they knew something was amiss in the economy when they saw trash levels start steadily dropping last year. Now, some are reporting declines as sharp as 30 percent.

Area Churches Join Lenten Trend: Cutting Out Carbons Instead of giving up chocolate for Lent this year, members of several local churches are cutting back on other luxuries: water, light bulbs and plastic bags.

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL

Codes cost billions in wasted energy Markell reviewing new draft policy that could save money, create jobs Delawareans use more energy per capita than any of their neighbors -- a practice that costs millions, possibly billions, of dollars a year. Our homes, businesses and industrial sites often are inefficient energy hogs. And we drive more -- way more -- than folks just across the state line in Maryland. Worse yet, our energy legacy is filled with missed opportunities, including two recent failed attempts by legislators to update state codes to ensure that new construction is more energy-efficient.

Court: Del. may block effort to build gas terminal

DOVER, Del. - An appeals court yesterday rejected Delaware's challenge of a federal agency's ruling granting conditional approval to British oil company BP for a proposed natural gas terminal in New Jersey at the mouth of the Delaware River.

MARYLAND

BALTIMORE SUN

Permit requirements to limit pollution stricter than Md. regulations

Permit requirements to limit pollution stricter than Md. regulations The Environmental Protection Agency has told Maryland's poultry farmers it intends to enforce for the first time federal pollution rules governing chicken manure - a crackdown that has surprised and angered growers while pleasing environmentalists who've long complained about agricultural runoff fouling Chesapeake Bay. At meetings recently on the Eastern Shore, EPA officials told several hundred farmers that they must get federal pollution-discharge permits if any manure from their flocks is washing off their land into drainage ditches and streams. More than half of the state's 800 poultry farmers have filed notices to get the permits, state officials say. The federal permits are tougher in key respects than what Maryland has so far been unable to establish for its poultry farmers. State regulations and permit requirements developed last year to cover about 200 of the largest chicken farms are on hold because of appeals filed both by environmentalists and farmers.

Lawyers to take different tack in next case against Exxon

For the past five months, spectators in a Baltimore County courtroom watched as dozens of families who live near a Jacksonville service station that leaked thousands of gallons of gasoline into the community's groundwater made their case against Exxon Mobil Corp. One especially interested onlooker at the trial, which concluded Thursday with a jury awarding \$150 million to the plaintiffs, was attorney Theodore M. Flerlage Jr. "It's always interesting to see how another firm addresses a situation," said Flerlage, who is with the Peter G. Angelos law firm. "I felt sorry for the plaintiffs, and I found their testimony very compelling." Flerlage's turn comes next. He will represent 150 other Jacksonville homeowners and businesses against the oil giant in a suit over the same spill that is scheduled to go to trial next year. ... Meanwhile, Ron Diedeman's daughter, Linda Langrill, lives about 10 miles away in Fallston, where a vapor leak was discovered at an Exxon station in 2004. She and her family are among the plaintiffs in a suit Angelos is bringing against Exxon for contaminating wells with MTBE. A Harford County Circuit Court judge will hold a hearing March 30 on whether that case will proceed as a class action suit or on behalf of individual plaintiffs.

Commentary: Wrong way on bay? With little to show for billions of dollars and decades of cleanup effort, it's time to reassess. For something that has been steadily dying for decades, the Chesapeake Bay promises to be a lovely corpse. Most of us who are fortunate to look out onto the broad estuary at sunset or witness the morning sky unveil the remaining pristine tracts of tributary and marsh are blinded by beauty. Yet we know the bay is sick, because we are constantly reminded. For a decade, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the region's dominant enviro-educational organization, has issued annual report cards with disappointing grades. In addition, other nonprofit groups are recording how legislators vote on measures affecting the air, land and water qualities of the three states that most directly affect the bay. ... -- Bill Thompson, a former writer for The Baltimore Sun, is the author of magazine articles and books about the Chesapeake Bay. This article is distributed by Bay Journal News Service.

SALISBURY TIMES

Inland Bays neutral on DNREC suit

DEWEY BEACH -- The Center for the Inland Bays is taking a neutral stance concerning the Sussex County Council's lawsuit regarding buffer regulations. The suit, filed with the authority of the previous County Council, contends the state Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control overstepped its authority in drafting regulations on buffer zones between subdivision developments and some bodies of water. The lawsuit argues that only the county has the authority to develop land-use rules. "By not taking a stance, we increase our objectivity in our role in the future as a neutral forum for the Inland Bays watershed," said board member Bill McGowan.

Del. program aims to track frog noises GEORGETOWN -- Hearing the familiar sounds of frogs at night is a reminder that the spring and summer months aren't far off. But to Holly Neiderriter, wildlife biologist for the Delaware Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, the sounds mean more. "Frog calling distinguishes where different species live and how the population is changing," she said. "Because amphibians are aquatic for at least part of their life cycle, they can serve as an important indicator of water quality and other aspects of environmental health."

ANNAPOLIS CAPITAL

Our Bay: Growing Green - the proper way With emergence of the warming sun at the onset of spring, there's an urge in many of us to try to rescue our sad, soggy, brown lawns. But the steps homeowners take to achieve lush, green lawns - especially applying fertilizer - can end up doing more harm than good, sending streams of nutrient pollution running off into waterways and sometimes doing little to help the grass. ...

Our say: This Week's Take: Menhaden talk should focus on science The Atlantic menhaden fishery has been a fixture along the Atlantic coast for more than a century, delivering economic stability to otherwise depressed areas and providing a multitude of products that has helped to improve our lives. The menhaden industry has an impressive history of cooperating with fisheries management and science agencies and institutions, and has voluntarily partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service since 1955 to report landings and biological data, resulting in the longest continuous fisheries database in the country.

State looking for enviro heroes BALTIMORE - The state is accepting nominations for the annual Tawes Award for a Clean Environment. The annual awards are named in honor of the late J. Millard Tawes, a former governor and the state's first secretary of natural resources. The honors are given out each year by the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Petroleum Council.

Ask a Scientist How can we get rid of abandoned boats in our waterways? The Maryland Department of Natural Resources budgets \$500,000 annually to remove abandoned boats and debris from state

waterways from the Waterway Improvement Fund. The fund was created in 1966 to support the development, use and enjoyment of all waters. It provides financial support in form of grants and loans for a wide variety of boating projects and services. Each year these funds are used to remove tons of debris and about 50 abandoned boats from Maryland waters.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

POULTRY: Some Md. farmers chafe at new federal rules BALTIMORE (AP) — Some Maryland poultry farmers are upset that they will have to comply with federal pollution rules regarding chicken manure for the first time. Environmental Protection Agency officials have informed farmers in a series of meetings on the Eastern Shore that they intend to enforce the rules. Farmers will have to get permits if any manure from their flocks is washing off their land into drainage ditches and streams. State officials say more than half of Maryland's 800 poultry farmers have filed notices to get the permits.

VIRGINIA

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

Kersey Creek Elementary shows off its green features A field trip to another school Chesterfield 4th-graders learn about Hanover's green elementary building The urban legends surrounding the mysterious third floor of Kersey Creek Elementary School were put to rest yesterday. There are no animals or ghosts or a secret teachers' lounge with a hot tub. The only thing lurking up there is the school's heating and air-conditioning systems, and that's for a good reason, as some Chesterfield County students learned during a field trip to the Hanover County school. The fourth-grade students from Robious Elementary visited Kersey Creek to learn about green schools. Kersey Creek is certified green by the U.S. Green Building Council for its environmentally friendly architecture and features. Chesterfield's "expeditionary learning" program teaches children through hands-on activities and field trips.

Eagles again flocking to James River area

CHARLES CITY On a cold morning before dawn, Libby Mojica worked by headlamp to wire up explosives in a farm field. If all went well, the explosives would launch three rockets to carry a 60-foot net over a bald eagle. Biologists Mojica, 31, and Bryan Watts, 48, are trapping and studying eagles along the James River, which runs beside the field at Weyanoke Point in Charles City County. The research should help experts help the majestic birds, perhaps by pointing out territories in need of protection. But field work can be unpredictable. Six days earlier, Mojica and Watts sat in tentlike blinds for three hours -- a test of patience and bladder control -- but no eagles visited the deer carcasses set out as bait.

VIRGINIAN PILOT

Opponents of uranium mine find allies at the Beach

Deborah and Phillip Lovelace felt like they were going up against an army as they organized opposition to a proposed uranium mine five miles from their cattle farm near Gretna, a Southside town of 1,300. Then the Virginia Beach City Council passed a resolution opposing the mine without guarantees that the operation wouldn't contaminate Lake Gaston, its primary drinking water supply. Suddenly, the Lovelaces had their own army: a city of 425,000 people. "I could have almost turned cartwheels," Phillip said. "People now realize, 'Hey, maybe it's not just little Gretna, Va.,'" Deborah added. "It's going to affect a lot more people."

DAILY PRESS

Watermen seeking 'ghosts' of the bay State program targets abandoned crab pots that pose a danger to a declining industry. GLOUCESTER - Richard Green spent the winter on the Chesapeake Bay searching for what scientists say could be among the most prolific killers of blue crab. It wasn't striped bass or eel, which feast on juvenile crabs. Instead, it was muck-covered steel baskets, better known as crab pots. Scientists estimate that more than 100,000 crab pots are abandoned — most are accidentally cut lose by boat propellers — annually off the shores of Virginia. The traps, also known as "ghost" or "derelict" crab pots, fall to the bottom of the bay, where they attract crab and fish for a year until the steel dissolves into salt water.

Even with conservation, our area needs reservoir

Newport News Waterworks, James City Service Authority and Williamsburg have worked cooperatively since the 1980s to ensure the future adequacy of the Peninsula's water supply, culminating most notably in the King William Reservoir on Cohoke Creek and an intake pumping station on the Mattaponi River. Phillips concedes that Waterworks made a good investment in 1998 when it built its brackish groundwater desalination plant to bridge the gap until a new reservoir supply is available. However, he implies we use the plant at full capacity only during droughts and emergencies, as a result of reduced demand for water. Use of surface water (like our reservoirs) and groundwater sources is actually optimized through conjunctive management.

DEQ reps to speak at Surry coal-plant meeting

DENDRON - Not much happens in this sleepy town. But a lot could change in the quiet community over the next decade if the Old Dominion Electric Cooperative's proposal to build a \$6 billion coal-powered power plant is granted. The co-op announced in December that 1,600 acres in Dendron — the former site of a lumber company that was the hub of the town's once-bustling business community — was its first choice for a place to build the proposed Cypress Creek Power Station.

The state Department of Environmental Quality and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative are holding a public meeting on the proposal from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Gardens on the Rolfe, 4373 Rolfe Highway in Dendron.

Here's why offshore drilling is bad for Va.In response to Robert Murphy's Feb. 1 opinion piece, "Why offshore drilling is good for Va." I would like to offer the following: • He dangles possible royalties as a revenue stream for an economically beleaguered state. The federal government is not interested in sharing these with Virginia. • He mentions how Americans want our country to produce as much fuel as possible here at home. The Interior Department's Minerals Management Services predicts Virginia's potential supply (130 million barrels of oil) at less than seven days of this nation's 20 million barrel a day habit. Murphy feels these reserves could reduce the dependence on foreign oil so many Americans want, but how much would seven days' worth really free us?

ROANOKE TIMES

Asphalt plant foes may have solid case

You don't have to drive past many highway paving projects to know that steaming asphalt stinks. It stings the nose, irritates the lungs and just plain smells bad. So perhaps you can understand why hundreds of Glenvar residents are worried a 300-tons-per-hour asphalt plant in their neighborhood will foul the air they and their children breathe. Adams Construction Co. wants to build the factory at the old Salem water plant site between West Main Street and Interstate 81 in West Roanoke County. That land is now zoned for uses such as warehouses and lumberyards. The company wants the site rezoned to allow heavy industry, and it needs a special exception, too.

WEST VIRGINIA

CHARLESTON GAZETTE

EPA official might have conflict over C8

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- When President Obama named Lisa Jackson to be his Environmental Protection Agency administrator, advocates for tougher regulation of the toxic chemical C8 were optimistic. Read more in the [Sustained Outrage blog](#). As New Jersey's top environmental regulator, Jackson had set the toughest C8 guideline in the country - a drinking water standard of 0.04 parts per billion of C8, also known as PFOA.

Now those advocates are worried. Last month, Jackson named lawyer Robert M. Sussman to be her "senior policy counsel," to advise her on energy and environmental issues across EPA's broad regulatory authority. For several years, Sussman represented 3M Corp., helping the agency deal with EPA efforts to understand - and perhaps regulate - what C8 and similar chemicals are doing to public health and the environment.

Sussman worked for EPA during the Clinton administration and later became a partner in the Washington office of the Los Angeles law firm, Latham & Watkins. After retiring from the law firm, Sussman became a fellow at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank run by John Podesta, a former chief of staff for President Bill Clinton.

Meeting set to probe August explosion at Bayer plant in Institute

Kanawha Valley residents will get a chance to hear from -- and speak to -- the federal Chemical Safety Board about safety problems at the Bayer CropScience plant in Institute.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monongahela drilling debate continues The Bureau of Land Management's decision to scrap a proposed oil and gas lease auction on the Monongahela National Forest doesn't end the debate on whether the forest's natural resources should be tapped, says the forest's supervisor.

The forest covers 919,000 acres in West Virginia and the federal government owns about 62 percent of the oil and gas locked in formations below the forest. About 24 percent has been leased.

Blog: Some climate change voices in W.Va.

Although forest decisions are guided by a management plan, Supervisor Clyde Thompson said it becomes a balancing act between caring for the forest and capitalizing on its resources. I wanted to be sure that Coal Tattoo readers saw two op-ed commentaries that appeared in the Gazette last week. Both are along the lines of urging West Virginians — normal citizens, policymakers and the folks in the coal industry — to come to terms with the changes needed to deal with climate change. The [first is by Jim Kotcon](#), a longtime Sierra Club official and former president of the West Virginia Environmental Council. Here's part of what he had to say:

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS SERVICE

DuPont Will Reduce PFOA Level in West Virginia Water

PARKERSBURG, West Virginia, March 13, 2009 (ENS) - The chemical used to manufacture nonstick cookware and all-weather clothing has three names. Perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, is also known as C-8. By any of these names the synthetic chemical is equally toxic, but scientists are still evaluating exactly how toxic it is. Studies already completed indicate that PFOA, a fluoropolymer, can cause developmental and other adverse health effects in laboratory animals.

MISCELLANEOUS

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Study: Northeast U.S. to see biggest sea level rise WASHINGTON — The northeastern U.S. coast is likely to see the world's biggest sea level rise from man-made global warming, a new study predicts. However much the oceans rise by the end of the century, add an extra 8 inches or so for New York, Boston and other spots along the coast from the mid-Atlantic to New England. That's because of predicted changes in ocean currents, according to a study based on computer models published online Sunday in the journal Nature Geoscience. An extra 8 inches — on top of a possible 2 or 3 feet of sea rise globally by 2100 — is a big deal, especially when nor'easters and hurricanes hit, experts said.

Monitoring of rare whales near NY harbor ends ALBANY, N.Y. -- Monitoring for endangered right whales off New York harbor is ending because the project has lost funding in the state's current budget crunch. Acoustic monitoring by Cornell scientists shows the rare right whales swimming off the harbor, where federal officials have recently lowered ship speed limits to help protect the slow-moving mammals during migrations from Florida to New England and Canada.

RED ORBIT

Study Finds Carcinogens In Children's Bath Products A new report issued by the consumer safety group Campaign for Safe Cosmetics finds that dozens of commonly-used children's bath products sold in the United States contain carcinogens. The watchdog group commissioned an independent laboratory to test 48 best-selling children's products for the presence of 1,4-dioxane. Additionally, 28 products were tested for the presence of formaldehyde, a by-product of a preservative added to products to prevent bacteria growth and extend shelf-life. The 1,4-dioxane chemical is used as a foaming agent in some products, while formaldehyde is used for embalming corpses and as glue in chipboard. Both chemicals are "completely unregulated" in the U.S., the report said, while 1,4-dioxane is prohibited in Europe and the use of formaldehyde is restricted, according to Stacy Malkan of the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics.

SCIENCE DAILY

Former 3M chemical company lawyer chosen as EPA administrator When Lisa Jackson was named to head the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), advocates for tougher toxic chemical regulation were elated. Now doubts are beginning to arise. Ms. Jackson was New Jersey's top environmental regulator and won accolades after had setting the toughest C8 guidelines for drinking water in the United States. The praises for her turned in doubts when she appointed lawyer Robert M. Sussman to be her senior policy counsel. His job would be to advise her on energy and environmental issues across EPA's broad regulatory authority. The problem seen by Jackson's former supporters was that for several years, Sussman represented 3M Corporation. Although he had worked for the EPA during the Clinton Administration, he later became a partner in the Washington office of the Los Angeles law firm, Latham & Watkins. After retiring from the firm, he became a fellow for American Progress. Now, Robert A. Bilott, an attorney who represents the states of West Virginia, New Jersey and Minnesota, that have polluted drinking water, has urged Jackson to ban Sussman from any involvement in these issues. His reason is that her choice of administrator was directly involved in representing the interests of perfluorochemical manufacturers in negotiations with the EPA while he was a partner in the law firm.